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REPORT

COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Central Chemical Ground near Moscow

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DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. [redacted] at the Moscow Higher Border Troop Officers School (MPShUOS) in 1952 [redacted] among other subjects [redacted] 25X1
 Chemical Warfare (Khimicheskaya podgotovka). The lecturer in this subject was a lieutenant colonel, [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] who was a permanent lecturer of the MVD Institute in Moscow. Once, in the summer of 1952, after several theoretical and descriptive lectures on CW agents, decontamination procedures, gas masks, and protective clothing, he announced [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] practical training to the Central Chemical Ground (Tsentral'nyy khimicheskii poligon) near Moscow. 25X1
2. Shortly afterwards, [redacted] the entire MPShUOS class of [redacted] 25X1
 students was put on military buses and taken to the Central Chemical Ground. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] 25X1
 Babushkin was located northeast of Moscow on the Yaroslavl' Highway (Yaroslavskoye shosse), [redacted] this Ground was located either south or west of Moscow; [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] 25X1
3. [redacted] a forest clearing where there was a barbed wire fence, approximately 2½ m. high, and a gate with an armed sentry. There was no sign or poster of any kind indicating the name or nature of the installation. An officer, presumably the [redacted] 25X1

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OD of the Ground, was waiting at the gate. [redacted] the Ground occupied an extensive area in the middle of a forest; there were several large clearings with buildings in them; other clearings were bare. Many wide roads led in all directions throughout the Ground. [redacted] the Ground could have occupied several square kilometers. The entire area was surrounded by a barbed wire fence and guarded by armed sentries posted inside the enclosure. There were quite a number of semi-underground buildings, each of which was guarded by a special sentry.

4. [redacted] a large, one-story building, probably a laboratory, and [redacted] a room which looked like a pharmacy. There was a broad counter in the middle of the room, and behind it were several large cupboards filled with hundreds of bottles and glass containers of liquids of various colors. Some containers held a substance of crystalline form. Here [redacted] liquid CW agents, such as lewisite, yperite, phosgene, diphosgene, adamsite, chloropicrin, and tabun. The characteristics of each of these agents were described again. Tabun was described [redacted] as the newest and most effective CW agent. [redacted] this was a nerve CW agent which immediately attacked the human nervous system of anyone exposed to it and caused almost instantaneous death. [redacted] the Soviet gas mask perfected after World War II gave full protection against tabun. The tabun liquid [redacted] at the Central Chemical Ground had a dark red (wine) color. [redacted] tabun was allegedly invented and manufactured by the Germans during World War II, captured by the Soviet Army, and taken to the USSR.

5. [redacted] another room in the same building where [redacted] CW protective ("alifa") clothing: above-the-knee length stockings, gloves, and sleeveless cap with hood. [redacted] the impregnating compound used for the protective clothing had been perfected after World War II, as had been the material from which the clothing was manufactured. [redacted] compared with the pre-war and wartime protective CW clothing, this clothing [redacted] was made from much thinner and finer material; it was something like durable, fine wax paper of a light green color. In the same section of the building [redacted] was [redacted] a post-war, improved type of the Soviet gas mask. [redacted] it was made of a rubberized material covering only the face and provided with a harness of rubberized straps to go over the head. The mask had a hose leading to a metal canister in which the decontaminant was carried. The canister had the shape of an elliptical cylinder, 20 cm. high and 10 by 14 cm. at the base. The upper part of this cylinder had the form of a bottle top to which a hose was hermetically attached. The bottom of the container had an opening provided with a rubber plug. Both the canister and the mask were carried in a cloth bag provided with a shoulder strap. Compared with the Soviet wartime mask this canister was of a much smaller size. The effective time of the canister's operation in a gas area was said to be eight hours; after that time the decontaminant had to be replaced.

6. Next [redacted] taken to a large clearing in the forest. [redacted] assembled in a horseshoe formation and a colonel (said to be on duty with the Central Chemical Ground) announced [redacted] a demonstration of tabun which would prove the high effectiveness of this new CW agent. A glass case, approximately one cubic meter in size, containing a live rabbit was brought out and placed on the ground in a central position towards the formation. An officer who was wearing a gas mask pulled the door of

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the case open, sprinkled several drops of tabun liquid on the floor, and promptly closed the door. It did not take more than one or two seconds before the rabbit suddenly jumped and hit at the glass wall, then jumped to the other side, hit the wall, and fell stone dead.

7. At the Central Chemical Ground [] shown decontaminating equipment (degazatsionnyye mashiny) of the Soviet Army. This equipment was of several types and sizes, including an individual type which was carried on the back like a soldier's pack, and another type which was transported on a small carriage similar to the old Maxim machine gun. Each of the pieces of equipment was provided with a sprayer to spray out the neutralizing agent. [] 25X1

[] also shown a large decontaminating apparatus which was installed on a 2½ tn. ZIS truck; it consisted of a large tank, several drums, hoses, etc., and a sprayer; allegedly it was used for the decontamination of artillery guns, tanks, and vehicles. [] 25X1

[] only two or three minutes were sufficient to decontaminate a T-34 tank. There was also a large soil-decontaminating machine. The main part of this machine was a wide blade similar to that of a plow but three or four meters long. When put into motion this machine moved a layer of soil about four meters wide and 10 - 15 cm. thick. The machine was on wheels and its prime mover was a caterpillar which was very similar to the ChTZ (Chel-yabinskiy traktorny zavod) 60 hp tractor. The moving speed of the caterpillar with attached machine [] was about 10 km. per hour. At this section of the Ground [] a clothing decontamination station (Degazatsionnaya stantsiya obmundirovaniya), which could be used to service a whole platoon of soldiers. The decontamination of clothing did not require more than a few minutes, after which the clothing could be used right away. [] 25X1

8. Finally, [] the Central Chemical Ground, [] flame thrower section. Two types of flame throwers (ognemet) were presented here, and their operation was [] as follows: [] 25X1

- a. Individual type of flame thrower, carried on the back like a soldier's pack.
- b. Large type of flame thrower, mounted on a two-wheeled carriage the size of a Maxim MG.

The main part of both types of flame throwers was a metal container in the form of a drum or a gas bottle with a hose through which the inflammable mixture was to be sprayed. [] 25X1

[] the range of the small type flame thrower was approximately 70 m., and that of the large type was 400 m. Several metal and reinforced concrete plates, four by five meters in size, arranged in a wall in front of the flame throwers, were used as targets for the experiment. The flame throwers were placed on the ground and fired by pulling a cord approximately 20 m. long. Thus the soldier who did the firing was lying full length on the ground about 20 m. behind the flame thrower. As soon as he pulled the cord a strong stream of flame came out of the hose and set the metal and concrete plate targets on fire. Another flame thrower was also fired which hit the target plates and then suddenly changed its trajectory and sprayed flame in front of itself in a wide belt approximately 200 m. long. [] the effective time of operation of the large type flame thrower was 1½ - 2 min. After that time the flame stream disappeared, but the liquid burning on the targets continued to burn for three to five minutes longer. [] the mixture used in these flame throwers was self-inflammable, i.e., it started to burn automatically on coming into contact with the air. [] 25X1

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9. [redacted] the Central Chemical Ground [redacted] was a Soviet armed forces institution and not one of the MVD or MGB. [redacted] a large number of distinguished Soviet chemists had worked at the Central Chemical Ground and [redacted] two officers on duty with the Ground had received the honorary title of "Laureates of Stalin's Prize" in chemistry. One of them was the major who had showed [redacted] the tabun experiment with the rabbit. [redacted] one of the senior officers on duty with the Central Chemical Ground, namely, the colonel attending the rabbit - tabun experiment, wore golden shoulder boards with black stripes and black piping. [redacted]

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10. [redacted]

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